

## **REMARKS**

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5, and 7 under §102 as being fully anticipated by Blaushild ('760). Claims 4 and 8 were rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Blaushild in view of Sevrain ('244).

The claims have been amended to clearly distinguish the present invention over the cited prior art. Blaushild teaches the use of a cup-shaped lock nut or cap 27 having a base 29 and a downwardly depending skirt or cylindrical wall 31 with threads in the outer wall. A cup-shaped nut 27 is not the same as or functionally equivalent to the collar ring member of the present invention. The cup-shaped nut 27 and the bolt 17 are not a unitary screw-collar ring assembly as claimed in the amended claims. The cup-shaped nut 27 is more of a cap which rests atop the bolt 17. It does not rotatably retain and hold the head of the bolt. Even when the deformable sections 39 are urged into cavity 43, there is no unitary screw-collar ring assembly formed and the bolt is not retained in the cap. The collar ring member of the presently claimed invention is rotatably coupled to and affixed about the head of the screw member to retain and hold the screw-collar ring as a unitary assembly.

Further, the present invention claims a locking system or fastener system for "releasably" attaching or joining two workpieces. Blaushild's cup-shaped nut 27 is not designed to allow releasable attachment, because the deformable sections 39 of the base 29 which engage the unsymmetrical walls 47 of the bolt cavity 43 are deformed downwardly into the cavity 43 by impacting the inward ends with a blunt punch.

Further yet the cup-shaped nut or cap 27 of Blaushild does not allow for angular insertion of the bolt 17 into the second component 15. The presently claimed invention

with a collar ring which surrounds the screw head and allows the screw member to be urged into the second workpiece at an angle if necessary.

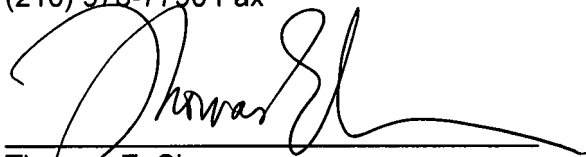
Thus, the Applicant asks the Examiner to reconsider the amended Claims 1, 5, and 7, and withdraw the rejection under §102 (Blaushild). Additionally, the limitations of amended Claims 2 and 3 are not to be found in the Blaushild reference. Claims 4 and 8 depend from now allowable Claims 1 and 5.

New Claims 9 and 10 are presented to specifically claim the cooperative arrangement of the screw head member with a circumferential groove with the collar ring member having a convex screw head retaining cavity. This configuration is disclosed in Fig. 7. These new claims also depend from now allowable amended Claim 1.

The Applicant again asks the Examiner to reconsider the claims in light of the current amendments and arguments and to issue a Notice of Allowance.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas E. Sisson', written over a horizontal line.

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